ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

From a trend for performance correlation coefficients (**M1**, **M2**) between circuits of the same type and of different process generations, a performance correlation coefficient **M** between a current generation circuit and a next generation circuit is predicted, and from 5 a trend for performance correlation coefficients (**R1**, **R2**, **R3**) between circuits of the same process generation and of different types, a performance correlation coefficient **R** between different types of circuits in accordance with a next generation process is predicted. Thus, based on known performance of a circuit **A**, performances of a next generation circuits **AA** and **BB** are predicted using the predicted performance correlation coefficients **M** and **R**.